

## VENet ...

... is the transnational co-operation among partners from Austria, Cyprus, Germany and Poland with the aim of developing a model of an innovative vocational education network. Disadvantaged youths should be integrated into the labour market through an individual practice-oriented qualification.



From left: Charlotte Gruber, Piotr Bastek, Peter Sicking, Christian Wolf, Christina Naziri, Manfred Leonhard, Karl-Heinz Kuehne, Gerd Beiderniki, Brigitte Kukovetz, Judith Riessner

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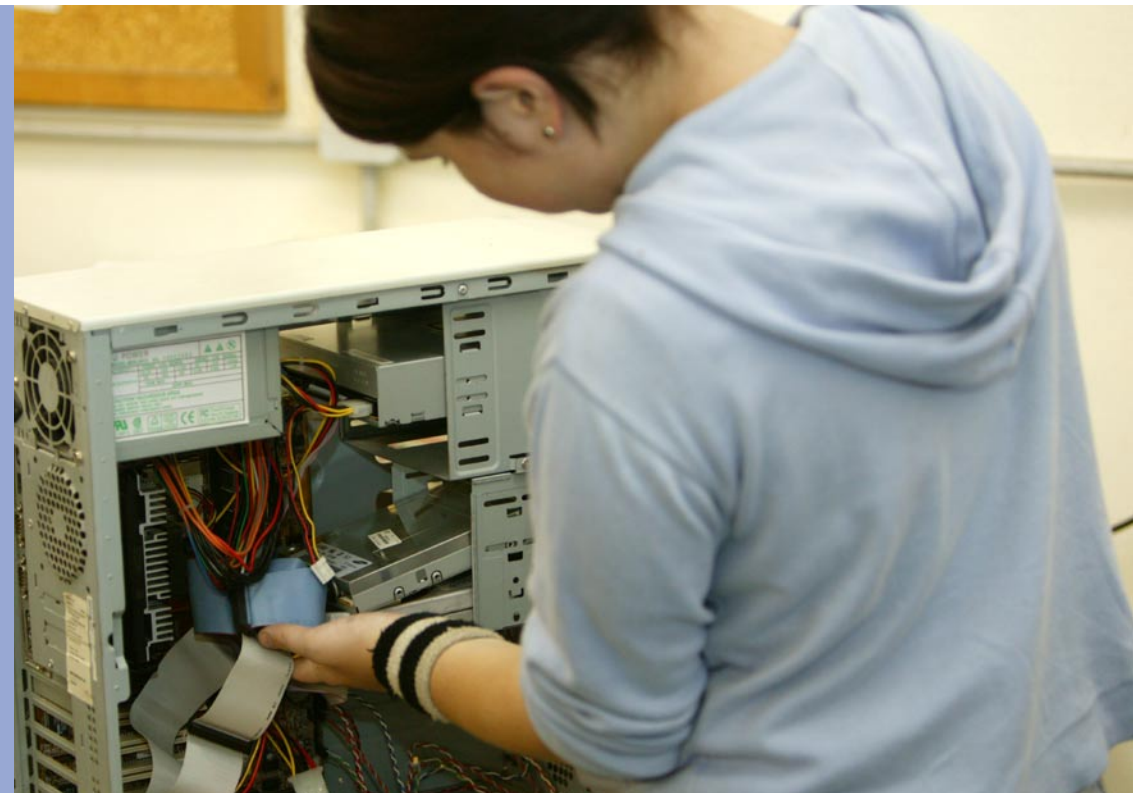
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**Vocational Training and Support with the VENet Model**

## VENet Model

The graph shows the compact VENet model that may be customized for different regions or countries. The model is based on three pillars: The Training System, the Support System and Overhead Management.

### Overhead Management

The Overhead Management is in charge of the overall project management including developing, planning and implementing the VENet model. The management coordinates the network partners and participants and the financing of the project. The communication process, the evaluation of the results and gender mainstreaming are also in the hands of the Overhead Management.

### Training System

The Training System includes theoretical and practical vocational training as well as life skills training. In apprenticeship facilities the participants get training on the job which is accompanied by the necessary theoretical lessons. The life skills training encourages personality development by imparting social competences and general skills such as money-management, health-knowledge etc. The training system is responsible for the compilation of the training units as well as their organisation and implementation. It also involves regular schools as a transition point and ensures that the qualification matches the demands of the labour market.

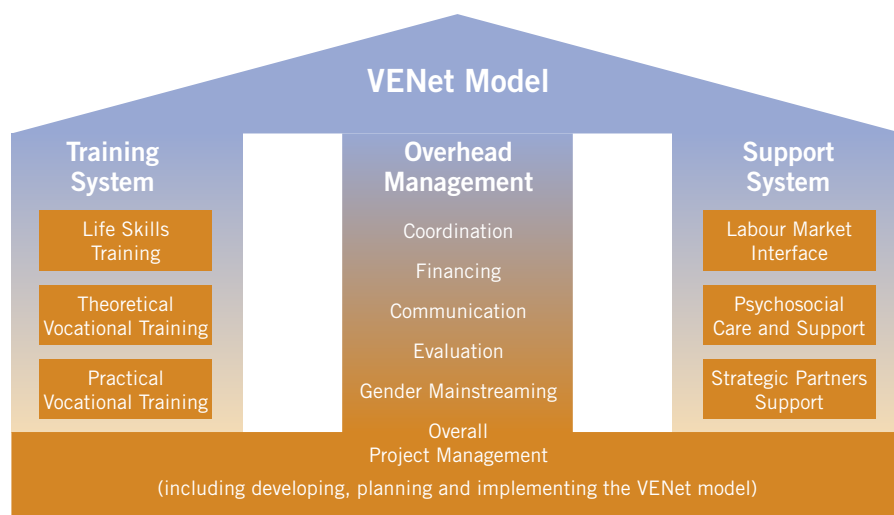
### Support System





The Support System covers psychosocial support as well as assistance by the Strategic Partners and the interface to the labour market. The individual care of the participants guarantees their stability during the training period. The Strategic Partners facilitate administrative issues like the accreditation and certification of the VENet qualification. It might be advisable to have the National Employment Agency as an entry point for the participants as in most countries maintenance of living costs and social insurance are only covered if the beneficiary is officially registered with the Employment Agency. The Support System also acts as interface to the labour market and makes sure that the qualification and the placement

of the participants matches the demands of the regional businesses. This system selects and coordinates the participants and is responsible for the trainees' integration into the labour market after finishing their VENet training.

### Next Transnational Meeting

During the meeting in Graz in January the partners agreed on Gender Mainstreaming guidelines and the decision process. Other main discussion points were the further development of the VENet model and the homepage. The next meeting will take place in Werl, Germany, from May 15–18, 2006. The next newsletter will focus on "regionalized" VENet models and further developments of the VENet project.



VENet Statistics				
Country	Austria	Cyprus	Germany	Poland
Sex, in %	male / female	male / female	male / female	male / female
Populat. aged 20–24 with upper second. educat. (ISCED 3a, 3b or 3c), 2003	83.9 / 83.0	71.3 / 87.0	71.6 / 73.4	86.1 / 91.5
Pupils in upper secondary education enrolled in vocational stream, 2003	76.1 / 66.9	22.4 / 4.8	67.8 / 55.9	63.3 / 44.2
Early school leavers, aged 18–24 with at most lower secondary education and not in further education or training, 2004	9.5 / 7.9	27.2 / 14.9	12.2 / 11.9	7.7 / 3.7
Unemployment rate of population aged ≥15 with ISCED level 0–2, 2005 Q3	10.4 / 10.0	5.0 / 5.5	21.7 / 18.5	24.8 / 24.6
Unemployment rate of population aged ≥15 with ISCED level 3–4, 2005 Q3	3.5 / 4.8	3.7 / 6.1	10.8 / 10.5	16.6 / 21.6
Unemployment rate of population aged ≥15 with ISCED level 5–6, 2005 Q3	2.2 / 3.8	3.5 / 7.7	5.2 / 6.0	5.9 / 9.2

Source: Eurostat

“European social policies like social protection, health and safety at work, equality between men and women and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups are our best long-term investment. Because for me, people are not an economic means to an end after all. Our ultimate goal is a good quality of life for all.”

VLADIMÍR ŠPIDLA, COMMISSIONER FOR  
EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



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